

**Appl. No.** : **09/445,945**  
**Filed** : **April 10, 2000**

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-14 (canceled)

15. (withdrawn) A filling connection for gas cylinder valves having an actuating element and a discharge connection on a valve body of the gas cylinder valve, comprising a filling union provided on the valve body in addition to the discharge connection, the filling union extending along a longitudinal axis of the filling union and having a company/user specific form for coding that is matched to a corresponding filling coupling being used, wherein the actuating element is arranged opposite the discharge connection and at a side of the valve body.

16. (withdrawn) The filling connection according to Claim 15, wherein the discharge connection and the filling union are arranged at right angles to one another on the valve body.

17. (withdrawn) The filling connection according to Claim 15, wherein the filling union is disposed vertically.

18. (withdrawn) The filling connection according to Claim 15, wherein a spring-biased check valve is fitted in the discharge connection so as to block gas flow in the filling direction.

19. (withdrawn) The filling connection according to Claim 15, wherein the discharge connection and the filling union each open into a separate through bore in the valve body.

20. (withdrawn) The filling connection according to Claim 15, wherein the discharge connection and the filling union each open into a common through bore in the valve body.

21. (withdrawn) The filling connection according to Claim 15, wherein the discharge connection and filling union are formed in one piece with the valve body.

22. (withdrawn) The filling connection according to Claim 15, wherein the filling union is screwed into the valve body.

23. (withdrawn) The filling connection according to Claim 15, wherein the filling union has an outer annular groove for engagement of a filling coupling.

24. (canceled)

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25. (withdrawn) The filling connection according to Claim 15, wherein at least one valve, in particular a spring-biased check valve is fitted in the filling union and adapted to block gas flow in the discharge direction.

26. (withdrawn) The filling connection according to Claim 15, wherein the at least one valve comprises a spring-biased check valve.

27. (canceled)

28. (canceled)

29. (withdrawn) The filling connection according to Claim 15, wherein the filling union has the same outer dimensions and external shape as the discharge connection.

30. (currently amended) A filling connection for gas cylinder valves having an actuating element and a discharge connection on the valve body of the gas cylinder valve, comprising a filling union provided on a valve body in addition to the discharge connection, wherein the discharge connection and filling union are formed in one piece with the valve body, the filling union extending along a longitudinal axis of the filling union and being adapted to be coupled to a filling station capable of being automated, wherein the actuating element is arranged opposite the discharge connection and at a side of the valve body, and wherein the discharge connection and the filling union each open into a separate through bore in the valve body.

31. (previously presented) The filling connection according to Claim 30, wherein the discharge connection and the filling union are arranged at right angles to one another on the valve body.

32. (previously presented) The filling connection according to Claim 30, wherein a spring-biased check valve is fitted in the discharge connection so as to block gas flow in the filling direction.

33. (canceled)

34. (canceled)

35. (previously presented) The filling connection according to Claims 30, wherein the filling union has an outer annular groove for engagement of a filling coupling.

36. (previously presented) The filling connection according to Claims 30, wherein at least one valve is fitted in the filling union and adapted to block gas flow in the discharge direction.

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37. (previously presented) The filling connection according to Claim 30, wherein the filling union has the same outer dimensions and external shape as the discharge connection.

38. (withdrawn) A filling connection for gas cylinder valves having an actuating element and a discharge connection on the valve body of the gas cylinder valve, comprising a filling union provided on a valve body in addition to the discharge connection, the filling union extending along a longitudinal axis of the filling union and being adapted to be coupled to a multiple filling coupling adapted for simultaneous filling of a plurality of gas cylinders, wherein the actuating element is arranged opposite the discharge connection and at a side of the valve body.

39. (withdrawn) The filling connection according to Claim 38, wherein the discharge connection and the filling union are arranged at right angles to one another on the valve body.

40. (withdrawn) The filling connection according to Claim 38, wherein a spring-biased check valve is fitted in the discharge connection so as to block gas flow in the filling direction.

41. (withdrawn) The filling connection according to Claim 38, wherein the discharge connection and the filling union each open into one of a separate and a common through bore in the valve body.

42. (withdrawn) The filling connection according to Claim 38, wherein the discharge connection and filling union are formed in one piece with the valve body.

43. (withdrawn) The filling connection according to Claim 38, wherein the filling union has an outer annular groove for engagement of a filling coupling.

44. (withdrawn) The filling connection according to Claim 38, wherein at least one valve is fitted in the filling union and adapted to block gas flow in the discharge direction.

45. (withdrawn) The filling connection according to Claim 38, wherein the filling union has the same outer dimensions and external shape as the discharge connection.